The Marker Lamp

Volume 53 Number 3 Summer 2007

The Lone Star Regions newest Master Model Railroader, Duane Richardson receives his plaque from Al and Jerry at Round Rock

Make plans for Houston in '08

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

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President's Message

by Jerry Schoenberg, MMR

Hi fellow model railroaders! Well, the Hill Country Special is now behind us, and what great memories for those that attended. The train ride on the *Bertram Flyer* was the "biggie" for me. It provided a great atmosphere, scenery viewing, conversations with old friends and good food. It doesn't get much better!

There were many other highlights. Speaker, Margaret Coel, provided us with interesting historical RR stories and caused cheers from the narrow gaugers. The clinics covered a wide range, were well done, and the Non Rail clinics were considered to be some of the best ever. The increased activity of the Non Rail group will soon include a separate column in future **Marker Lamp** publications.

There were over 100 entries in the Contest Room, and I feel the LSR quality rivals what is entered at the NMRA Convention. The new Silent Auction Program worked well, the Youth effort was very visible, the tours and operation activities had good participation, and the convention attendance was better than expected.

Many thanks to Bob Alston and his team! Mark your calendar now, and don't miss the 2008 Convention in Houston. I hope to see some of you in Detroit. Have a great Summer!

New Yahoo Group Formed for the LSR.

At the request of the BOD a new Yahoo group was formed for the Lone Star Region. You can find it at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LSR_NMRA/

This list is for the discussion of all topics pertaining to the LSR. It is open to all members of the LSR, whether you are a member within the boundaries of the region, or live outside the region, all are welcome.

To be approved, please include your Name, Location, Division and/or NMRA Number in your write up.

For further information or questions please contact the Owner/ Moderators Tracy Mitchell at traymit@houston.rr.com or Duane Richardson at duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

The convention is over and we have had our batteries charged until next year. Bob and his crew gave us plenty to do so if you were bored you weren't at the same convention I attended. Great clinics and the train ride was the icing on the cake, even if it was broad gauge.

Entries in the contest room, were up this year, which was a good sign. The outhouse challenge created lots of interest from both participants and visitors alike. Look in the next Marker Lamp to see what kind of challenge I come up with for the contest room next year. If I said there weren't problems this year in the contest room, it would be misleading. The contest rules were brought up by several persons entering the contest with the recurring statement being, "show me where it says that." Up until now the contest room rules have been more or less assumed and we followed the National rules for the judging points. After the convention I met with Gil Freitag and Loren Neufeld, the past two contest chairmen, to review the rules and get them down in writing. What we came up with has been ratified by the Board and is published in this issue. Is it perfect? Probably not, but it is a start. Review the rules and get with your Division Director if you feel something needs to be changed so they can bring it to the Board.

In this issue I have also asked Tracy and his brother Terry to take a break from their normal article and do one on filling out the contest entry form. When I was reviewing the room and the score sheets after judging the one thing I noticed was that several people didn't give the judges enough information. The judges have limited time to judge the models and unless you tell them what you did they cannot give you a fair score on your model. So review the article and get ready for next year.

Being a member of the Friends of the C&T Railroad, I receive an invitation to attend their moonlight train ride and dinner each year. Well this year I decided this was a good way to celebrate our anniversary, and I purchased the tickets. By the way guys, we met two other couples celebrating their anniversary also, so maybe it's not a bad gift.

We departed Chama at just after 5PM heading for our dinner in Osier. The train took its normal leisurely pace until just before Cascade Tank when the car we were on started to shake, as the train came to a stop we found out the car just behind ours had derailed. Didn't seem to bother a train full of rail fans watching out of the windows to see how things are done in the real world. We arrived in Osier about an hour late, but all with new stories to tell. The steak dinner and all the trimmings were great. Service was excellent, they moved 175 people through the line and in just over 15 minutes the room was quite with everyone enjoying the meal. The trip back was nothing short of wonderful. The clouds cleared and the full moon looked as though you could reach out and touch it.

The following rules governing the Contest Room were just approved by the LSR Boars of Directors. They are being published in this issue of the Marker Lamp and will be the rules that will be effective for the Houston Convention in 2008. The rules cover the Model, Photography, Pass and Arts and Craft Contest. They will also be available on the web site along with new entry forms.

Model Contest Rules
Lone Star Region
Of the National Model Railroad Association

A. General Contest Rules

1. Any member of the NMRA, in good standing, is eligible to compete except, Manufacturers and Professional Model Builders. Any commercially built (built by a Professional Model Builder) model is not eligible to be entered.

a. Manufacturer – Derives the majority (51% or more) of his income from producing detail parts, gearing, drives or kits for the Model Railroad consumers.

b. Professional Model Builder – Any member who derives the majority (51% or more) of his or her income from model building.

2. Each entry must be accompanied by the official LSR (Board approved) entry form signed by the entrant along with the LSR or NMRA Contest Judging form. Each entry by proxy must be authenticated by the owner/builder with a valid NMRA membership number.

3. There will be no restrictions on the number of models (doesn't include photos, see photo rules) entered by a single entrant, nor shall any entry fee be charged.

4. Unmodified, ready-to-run models are ineligible for the model contest.

5. Models will be displayed to permit the maximum inspection (based on space available), with the minimum amount of handling necessary by the judges.

6. Models that have won First (1st) place at previous Regional or National NMRA contests are ineligible.

7. Models requiring more than ten (10) square feet and/or weighing more than one hundred (100) pounds are at the discretion of the Region Contest Chairman if it will be allowed to be enter, based on available space. Please check before bringing the model.

8. The claim check from the LSR entry form must be presented to obtain the model after the contest.

9. All scales will be combined in the various categories. There will be no division of category based on the scale of the model.

10. Reasonable care and protection will be provided for entries by the Host Committee and the Judges.

11. Neither the Region or the Host Division Committee can assume any responsibility in the event of loss or damage to a model beyond the insurance carried by the NMRA and then only the dollar value that is shown on the LSR Entry form.

12. Judges for the model and photo contest will be selected by the Region Contest Chairman with the help of the Host Division.

13. No entries will be accepted after Noon on Friday (unless otherwise posted). This will allow the Region Contest Chair and the Host Division to ready the contest room for judging.

14. Judging will be done on Friday evening (unless otherwise posted). The contest room will remain closed from viewing during judging. The room will reopen for viewing Saturday morning.

15. Once the model and any supporting material have been placed on the table by the modeler it must be left on the table for viewing. No models are to be picked up and handled (even by the owner) in the contest room since there is no way the Host Committee people in charge of the room know who owns the model.

16. For the protection of the models, no bags, purses, camera bags, or drinks will be allowed in the model display area. You are welcome to take photos for your personal use.

17. No *"politicking"* in the contest room! If you are caught reviewing your model or downgrading other models, you will be asked to leave the room until after judging and voting is completed.

B. Categories

1. **Steam Locomotive** – Types of locomotives that run off of steam and are representative of steam power.

2. **Diesel Locomotive** – Types of locomotives that are representative of diesel power.

3. **Traction and Other** – Electrically powered and other types of power that don't fit into the Steam or Diesel categories.

Per Section E-1 of the NMRA Contest Rules – Additional Regulations, models entered in Steam Locomotives, Diesel Locomotives and Traction and Other ***must be powered****. In the case of multiple hookups such as A&B diesels, at least one of the models must be powered.*

4. **Passenger Cars** – All types of passenger revenue carrying equipment, including RDC, rail buses, observation, mail and baggage.

5. **Freight Cars** – All types of freight revenue carrying equipment, including express reefers.

The load will not be included in the judging of the freight car. If the load is to be judged it should be entered into On-Line Structures.

6. **Cabooses** – All types of caboose and cabin cars including bobbers, drovers, transfers, etc.

7. **Maintenance of Way** – Non-revenue, Right of way and track maintenance vehicles, rail and inspection cars, railroad cranes, snow removal and other cars not considered directly involved in railroad revenue service.

8. **Structures On Line** – On Line structure are considered those to be normally owned by the railroad, stations, yard buildings, bridges, etc. It also includes buildings having rail loading/unloading facilities on the right of way. If scenery extends past the building drip line entry *must* be entered in Displays.

9. **Structures Off Line** – Off Line structures are those not needing direct rail access. If scenery extends past the building drip line entry *must* be entered in Displays.

10. **Bridges & Trestles** – Any type of Railroad Bridge or trestle used by the railroad to move trains across.

11. **Displays** – Models or models which include supplemental scenery. For a model to be in the display category the scenery extends past the drip line and is not pertinent to the function of the model or primary structure. The display can be an On Line or Off Line model or models.

12. **Favorite/Complete Train** –Due to the mixture of model types and motive power, this is a non-judged category. A plaque and ribbon will be awarded for the train receiving the most votes from a popular vote. Ribbons will be awarded for Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) place from the popular vote.

C. Awards

1. Plaques will be given for all First (1st) place models. Ribbons will be given for First (1st), Second (2nd), and Third (3rd) place finishers. Honorable Mention Ribbons will be awarded to all models receiving a Merit Award (87.5 points) from the contest judges.

Special Awards

Most Popular – Popular vote. It will be awarded to the model receiving the most votes from the convention attendees. The Host Division shall insert ballots into all registrants' packets. Whether you enter a model in the contest or not, come and vote for your favorite. Judges scores are not taken into consideration for this award.

Best In Show – Highest scoring model, in any judged category, in the model contest that receives at least 87.5 points from the judges.

Participation Award – The contestant in the model contest who receives the greatest number of combined points (from multiple models in the model contest) from the judges. In order for a model to be considered, it must receive at least 70 points.

Best Kit Built Model – Highest scoring model created from a kit or a modified kit. The award is based on the total number of points, less the scratchbuilding points. This award doesn't need to be awarded if no model qualifies.

Architecture Award – Best example of architectural design in a prototype or freelanced Off-Line structure. This award is decided by the Region Contest Chairman, if he deems a qualified model is in the contest.

Tree Award – The best tree entry. This award is decided upon by the Regional Contest Chairman and is presented only if an outstanding tree is entered.

Youth/Teen Award – To help promote the hobby and the Region Model Contest and to include young people. Anyone in the age groups specified may enter. These awards will only be presented if a qualified entry is in the contest.

Youth – Open to all youth under 12 years of age and under.

Teen – For ages 13-17 years of age.

Novice Best of Show – Highest point scoring model (with a score of at least 87.5 points) by a modeler that has never placed with a First (1st) or Second (2nd) in any LSR (Region level) or NMRA (National level) Contest. You will find a "Novice" box on the LSR modelbuilding entry form; please mark it appropriately to indicate if you are eligible. Award can only be won once by an entrant.

Bob Clarke Award – Award is presented to the entry that best depicts Logging or Backwoods modeling. Entry can be prototype or freelance model. This entry is chosen by the Region Contest Chairman and can be chosen from any contest model category. If no suitable models fit these criteria the award will not be given.

Linda S. Little Award – This award will be presented to the highest scoring entry *in the Model Contest only*, submitted by a woman modeler who has not previously scored higher than 87.5 points. If there are no qualifying entries, no award will be given that year.

D. Judging

Most judging categories have aspects of both difficulty and quality. Scores go up as the modeler attempts more difficult modeling projects and methods. Scores also go up as the modeler is more successful with the chosen project and methods.

1. Judging will take place using the NMRA scoring system.
2. Judging is basically ***positive*** in that points are awarded for what has been done, rather than subtracting for shortcomings compared to a "theoretical" perfect model.
3. The main source of information should be the Judges Score Sheet for NMRA Model Contest. Judge what you see as well as what you read since some entrants are better modelers than writers.
4. If the entrant provides photos, plans or other documentation, look it over for prototype or model information that will help you judge the model. This is especially important in the "Conformity" area. You are to judge what the modeler has done, *not* what you feel should have been done.
5. Judge the model not the modeler. You may know or guess who built the model and think the modeler was capable of better, but you must judge only what is before you.
6. Judges will be divided into teams of two (2) or three (3), with each team assigned to judge one category (construction, detail, conformity, finish & lettering or scratchbuilding) and across all classes (locomotives, cars, structures, etc.). Each judging team will have a Senior (or lead) judge. The senior judge will transfer the score to the entry form.
7. Each member of the judging team will study the model on their own and write a preliminary score on a scratch paper. The team will then compare these scores and review them with other team members. If there are differences, discuss why each judge thinks the way they do before averaging or otherwise agreeing on a score.
8. Use a ***pencil only*** when writing on the Judges Score Sheet since the Region Contest Chair has the right to review and modify scores if he demes necessary.
9. You will not be eligible to judge in the contest if you have entries in more than two (2) categories. When you get to the category where you have models entered you will need to leave the area. If an alternate judge is need please contact the Contest Chairman, no less that two (2) judges will judge a category.
10. When judges pick up a model for closer examination, in the following categories; Steam, Diesel, Traction and Other, Freight Cars, Maintenance of Way, Passenger Cars and Cabooses, they ***must*** wear gloves. This will be done out of respect for the modeler.
11. Only judges, Region Contest Chairman and Host Division Contest Chair will be allowed in the room during judging.
12. When the team completes judging all team members except the *senior* judge are excused from their duties and must leave the room. The senior judge will review scores if necessary with the Region Contest Chairman before being excused.

Photo Contest Rules
Lone Star Region
Of the National Model Railroad Association

A. General Contest Rules

1. Any member of the NMRA, in good standing, is eligible to compete except, Professional Photographers. A Professional photographer is any member who derives the majority (51% or more) of his or her income from photography.
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the official LSR (Board approved) entry form signed by the entrant along with the LSR or NMRA photo Judging form. Each entry by proxy must be authenticated with a valid NMRA membership number.
3. You may submit up to ten (10) entries with a maximum of five (5) entries in one category.
4. Prints must be mounted on flat, rigid board or matted with similar material. No folders or grass frames allowed. Photo and mount may not exceed 12"x16" in size. Minimum mount size is 8"x10" and a minimum print size of 5"x7"
5. Photos will be displayed to permit the maximum inspection (based on space available).
6. Photos that have won First (1st) place at previous Regional or National NMRA contests are ineligible.
7. Slides must be in standard 2"x2" mounts, and should be marked on the lower left-hand edge as the slide is viewed.
8. Prints should have the entrants name on the back of the mount. The title of the photo can be on the front but no photo will be accepted with the entrants name on the front.
9. Exposure of the original must have been made by the entrant.
10. The claim check from the LSR entry form must be presented to obtain the model after the contest.
11. Reasonable care and protection will be provided for entries by the Host Committee and the Judges.
12. Judges for the model and photo contest will be selected by the Region Contest Chairman with the help of the Host Division.
13. No entries will be accepted after Noon on Friday (unless otherwise posted). This will allow the Region Contest Chair and the Host Division to ready the contest room for judging.
14. Judging will be done on Friday evening (unless otherwise posted). The contest room will remain closed from viewing during judging. The room will reopen for viewing Saturday morning.
15. For the protection of the models, no bags, purses, camera bags, or drinks will be allowed in the model display area. You are welcome to take photos for your personal use.

B. Categories

1. Model – Black and White Print
2. Model – Color Print
3. Model – Slide
4. Prototype – Black and White Print
5. Prototype – Color Print
6. Prototype – Slide

C. Judging Procedures

1. The following judging system has been used in competitive camera club settings for many years.
2. View all the entries in a category one at a time to get an overview of the field. There should be no commentary between the judges at this point. The entries should be viewed again and each judge should indicate if the entry should stay or be eliminated. During this run through, a positive vote by any one judge will keep the entry in the running. Entries receiving no votes are set aside. During the third (3rd) run through, it requires two (2) positive responses to keep an entry. If the field is still large, perform another run-through. The purpose of this process is to narrow the field rather than to pick the winner.
3. The judges now have a reasonably small field to select from. At this point considerable discussion is needed and encouraged between the judges as they compare the entries. Prints may be moved about and arranged as the judges seek a consensus. Different teams of judges may likely produce different winners from the field, however this is not surprising, as we are dealing with a subjective medium.

D. Judging Factors

As stated above photo contest are more subjective than model contest. A prize winning photograph is often more a matter of art and luck than execution of technique. Certainly, the photographer is faced with more things that are beyond his control than the model builder, at least where the prototype categories are concerned. Notwithstanding this subjectivity, there are some judging factors that are brought to bear by experienced judges.

1. IMPACT: Best explained by "I wish I'd taken that picture". Given a choice, action is preferable to static scene. In model photography, the choice of the model will contribute to the impact of the picture. Does the photograph reveal obvious, distracting modeling flaws, or has the photographer taken pains to be sure that all of the elements shown work together to produce pleasing results. When the environment is exceptional, or the viewpoint makes the ordinary extraordinary, full credit should be given for the contribution the photographer's sensitivity brought to the subject.
2. COMPOSITION: The arrangement of the forms within the photo should be pleasing to the eye. How well did the photographer use the available space within his format? Did he or she follow the guidelines taught in art and photography classes? If the rules are broken, did the result justify that decision.
3. ARTISTIC APPROACH: This subjective area is where a strongly graphic or symbolic composition may move one judge and a "typical calendar shot" may be moving to another. One tends to evaluate artistic and aesthetic qualities based on one's own experience. What moves us and the degree we are impressed will change as we are exposed to more and better images. A judge should not start out looking for a special kind of artistry, to do so would be imposing personal values, sensibilities, or preconceptions without giving the entries a chance to speak for themselves.
4. LIGHTING: In photography "Light is law". It is the only thing that makes it possible to expose film. Skillfully handled, the result can be a work of art; badly handled, the result is a total failure or a snapshot at best. The photographer should be given full credit for use of multiple flash, supplemental reflectors, or a well developed room lighting, depending on the quality of the execution. The best execution of any lighting system in model photography is one that produces a realistic, natural appearance, without multiple shadows (there can only be one sun!), with accurate color, and without excessively harsh contrast and black holes devoid of details.
5. EXPOSURE: If a print appears washed out, or shadow details are obliterated, it is obvious it was improperly exposed. The judge may decide however, that an unusual exposure was skillfully handled to achieve a desired mood or dramatic effect.
6. FOCUS: Model photographers strive to maximize the appearance of sharpness throughout the photo to achieve realistic results. Generally "selective focus" is not desirable in model or prototype photos, since it produces fuzzy areas that are distracting; but there are always exceptions. The judges must determine whether the photographer achieved his or her goal or not.
7. DIFFICULITY: In prototype shots this relates to motion, lighting conditions (including weather), selection of appropriate viewpoint, inherent danger and the knowledge of special techniques and equipment. Model photography involves a different set of technical skills for close-up work while maintaining adequate depth-of-field. Lighting models adequately can be difficult and complex as well. Since a model may be photographed many times with different settings, there is little reason to see a poorly lit photo of model scenes. A prototype may be available only once.
8. SPECIAL EFFECTS: This would apply to deliberate blurring or panning to accentuate motion, long exposures at night to create light streaks, multiple exposures, shooting through fog or smoke, using filters, print toning, or any other special effects limited only by the photographer's imagination. In model photos, special effects include smoke and and steam simulation, fog, harsh weather conditions and more. The final evaluation should be, as always, a response to how well the effect achieved the desired result: did it work, and is the result pleasing or evocative enough to have made the effort worthwhile.
9. TECHNIQUE: Is the color pleasing, correct or believable? Color saturation should also be evaluated. To some extent this is influenced by the quality of processing: however, weather the result is acceptable or not is a judgment for which the photographer is responsible. An unsatisfactory processing job may be redone. Black and white is more often controlled by the photographer, because more of them process their own. With digital all of this is changing. Good blacks and mid-tones, clean whites, and careful contrast control are essential to all contest-quality black and white prints.
10. FINISH: Consider the impact of the presentation of the entry. Prints should not be blemished or streaked and should be bonded correctly to the mount, with carefully measured borders. Mounts and mats should be clean and neatly cut, lie flat, and not show excess mounting tissue or adhesive around the edges. Slides should be neat and clean, free of fingerprints and scratches, and fixed firmly in their mounts that protect them from damage and hold the film flat. If a slide or print is not suitable for publication reproduction, it should not be considered for an award.

E. Awards

Plagues and ribbons will be given for all First (1st) place finishers in the photo contest. Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) place finishers shall receive ribbons. Honorable Mention ribbons are as deemed necessary by the judges. The decision may be influenced by the size and quality of the field.

Pass Contest Guidelines
Lone Star Region
Of the National Model Railroad Association

A. Rules for Entry

1. Any member of the NMRA, in good standing, is eligible to compete.
2. The entrant must complete an LSR (Board approved) entry form along with a LSR Pass Contest Judges Score Sheet.
3. Two (2) copies of the subject pass must be provided upon entry, if necessary, so that both sides of the pass can be displayed and judged.
4. Entries may be done by proxy. The same rules are applicable as in the model contest.
5. Entries may be printed, hand lettered, typed, stamped or reproduced by other suitable means.
6. The entry may not have won a First (1st) Place at a previous Region or National NMRA Contest.

7. No entries will be accepted after Noon on Friday (unless otherwise posted). This will allow the Region Contest Chair and the Host Division to ready the contest room for judging.
8. Judging will be done on Friday evening (unless otherwise posted). The contest room will remain closed from viewing during judging. The room will reopen for viewing Saturday morning.
9. The claim check from the LSR entry form must be presented to obtain the model after the contest.

B. Judging and Awards

1. The judging will be done by a team of judges selected by the Region Contest Chairman.
2. First (1st) place will be awarded a plaque and a ribbon. Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) place will be awarded ribbons.

C. Scoring

1. Design and Appearance – Each factor shall be considered in the judging.
2. Judging factors are:
a. Esthetic Appeal (maximum 20 points)
b. Balance and Readability (maximum 20 points)
c. Color Match and Attractiveness (maximum 20 points)
d. Uniqueness of Design (maximum 20 points)
e. Bonus-contestant created own artwork (maximum 20 points)

Arts and Craft Contest Rules
Lone Star Region
Of the National Model Railroad Association

A. General Contest Rules

1. The Arts and Craft Contest is open to anyone who is registered at an LSR Region Convention.
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the official LSR (Board approved) entry form signed by the entrant along with the LSR or NMRA Arts and Craft Judging form.
3. Entry by proxy is *not* allowed.
4. There will be no restrictions on the number of articles entered by a single entrant, nor shall any entry fee be charged.
5. Articles will be displayed to permit the maximum inspection (based on space available).
6. Items that have won First (1st) place at previous Regional or National NMRA contests are ineligible.
7. The claim check from the LSR entry form must be presented to obtain the model after the contest.
8. Reasonable care and protection will be provided for entries by the Host Committee and the Judges.
9. No entries will be accepted after Noon on Friday (unless otherwise posted). This will allow the Region Contest Chair and the Host Division to ready the contest room for judging.
10. Judging will be done on Friday evening (unless otherwise posted). The contest room will remain closed from viewing during judging. The room will reopen for viewing Saturday morning.
11. For the protection of the models, no bags, purses, camera bags, or drinks will be allowed in the model display area. You are welcome to take photos for your personal use.

B. Categories

1. Arts and Craft General – Other than Railroadiana, Needlework or Theme. Can be from a kit (which includes plans, instructions and materials), Pattern (where the entrant acquires material separately), or an original design from the entrant. Please specify kit, pattern or original.
2. Arts and Craft Railroadiana – Same as General except entry must have a railroad motif. Please specify kit, pattern or original.
3. Arts and Craft Needlework – Same as General except entry is a type of stitchery(knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, sewing, etc.). Please specify kit, pattern or original.
4. Arts and Craft Theme – Same as General except the subject is chose by the Host Committee. The theme subject will be announced at the banquet and in the *Marker Lamp*.

C. Judging

1. Judging will be done by a team of judges
2. Points are awarded in the following categories listed on the LSR/ NMRA Arts and Craft Judges' Score Sheet.
a. Construction and Materials (maximum of 50 points)
b. Difficulty/Complexity (maximum of 30 points)
c. Finishing & Display (maximum of 25 points)
d. Neatness (maximum of 20 points)

D. Awards

1. A plaque and ribbon will be awarded for First (1st) place in each category.
2. Ribbons will be awarded for Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) place in each category.
3. Honorable Mention ribbons will be awarded at the discretion of the judges.
4. Most Popular will receive a plaque. This is based on the entry receiving the highest numbers of votes from the ballots submitted in the ballot box located in the Contest Room. It can come from any category.
5. Best of Show is the entry receiving the highest point total on the judges score sheet, from all the entries in the Arts and Craft contest.

The LSR main Contest Entry Form, the LSR Model Contest Judges' Score Sheet and the LSR Arts & Craft Judges' Score Sheet have also changed. Please go to the LSR web site to download these new forms. The Pass and Photo Judges' Score Sheet have remained the same and these are also available on the LSR web site.

Company Store

	HO		N-Scale
Casey Lines	Out		$ 5.00
Crescent City Lines	Out		$ 5.00
Texas & African	$5.00		$ 5.00
Waco Austin & Bryan	$5.00		$ 5.00
Anniversary Car 1951	OUT	per set	$35.00
Anniversary Cars 2001	OUT	per set	$35.00
ITC - Bob Clarke	$10.00	per set	$35.00
Supreme Feed - John Lott	Out		$10.00
Quin Lines	$12.00		

Check your layout and be sure you have one of each *special run* Region car. If not we can take care of the shortage post haste.

Other items available

Cloth Region Patches	$5.00 each
Auto/Window Region Decal	$ .50
N Scale Nevadun Decals	$2.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Daw Cha Southern Decals	$3.00 per sheet

Shipping

Please add $5.00 for up to 3 cars and add $1.00 for patches and decals

Eunice Linda, Dispatcher
3028 Cumberland
Waco, TX 76707-1219
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E-mail: jlinda@hot.rr.com

Minutes of the Lone Star Region Board Meeting
Round Rock, TX – June 10, 2007

The annual board meeting was called to order by President Jerry Schoenberg.

ROLL CALL

The following officers were absent: Director at Large Bob Bray; Membership Chair David Davis. Director Bob Bray assigned Director Chris Atkins as his proxy.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by Jack Green, seconded by Duane Richardson and passed by the Board, that the minutes of the June 4, 2006 Board meeting be accepted with the following correction. Under New Business, regarding the Yahoo LSR Chat Site, the suggestion and the offer to act as moderator was made by Tracy Mitchell, not Terry Mitchell as originally written.

REPORTS

President Jerry Schoenberg's report highlighted efforts and accomplishments of the Board members - gaining new members, the youth program, achievement certificates, ***The Marker Lamp***, a photographic record of activities and other efforts. He noted the outstanding conventions hosted by SAMRA and by Division 4. Jerry also reviewed highlights of the reports submitted by the Board members.

Secretary/Treasurer Elbert Smith's report showed: the LSR net worth now is $41,794.31; NMRA/LSR membership stands at 1045; printing and distribution costs of ***The Marker Lamp*** is approximately $1.01 per member per issue; and last year's financial result (helped by the successful 2006 convention) was a net -$137.57.

Achievement Chair Al Boos' report listed three new MMR's: J. Stephen Sandifer (previously announced); Duane Richardson; and Lloyd Kaiser. Three Golden Spikes and twenty-three achievement certificates have been awarded; including the eleventh certificate to MMR Jim Packer who now has all eleven achievement certificates. There was discussion about revising the order of the convention banquet activities so that the convention speaker's program is not pushed too late in the evening and about highlighting unique certificate and MMR achievements of our members.

Contest Chair Chuck Lind – Contest submissions at this year's convention were approximately 18% greater than last year.

Convention Chair Bill McPherson's report noted a highlight of the 2008 convention in Houston as the live steam railroad in Zube Park with a picnic there. The convention will be at the renovated Holiday Inn Southwest, site of the 2004 convention. The 2009 convention will be in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and chaired by Jerry Hoverson.

Dispatcher Eunice Linda's report showed that fifty-seven HO-scale and twenty-six N-scale cars were sold in the last fiscal year. Seventy-nine cars were distributed at this year's convention so the inventory now is 110 HO and 615 N cars.

Historian Jim Long received two boxes of historical material from member Rosella Nash of Raton, NM.

Nominating Chair Gary McMills reported that this year's election returned the incumbent President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Directors for Divisions 1, 3, 5 and 7. There were some write-in ballots. Ballots mailed – 960. Ballots returned – 134. Total cost for the election was $612.87.

Non-Rail Chair Virginia Freitag described an idea to include a column in ***The Marker Lamp*** that highlights non-rail interests. This may help encourage member's wives to become more involved in LSR activities.

Publications Chair Chuck Lind's report described The Marker Lamp publishing schedule and an effort to measure the postal delivery time. Some deliveries took four postal days, a few required 14 days and most took 6-12 days. Chuck appreciates the regular submissions of the Division Directors and the contributions by Tracy Mitchell and Duane Richardson.

Web Page Chair Duane Richardson will add information on next year's convention to the LSR site soon. Chuck Lind suggested adding a quicker link to the contest forms on the site. Dave Lamberts will send Duane photos of this year's convention for the site.

Youth Director Tom Browning's report listed the seven young people who received one-year memberships in the NMRA and described their modeling interests. Six of the youth were nominated by Division Directors and one nominated on behalf of the Officers and Directors-at-Large.

Division 1 Director Chris Atkin's report described their division meetings, programs and other activities. Division 1 members manned an LSR booth at the "World's Greatest Hobby" show in Fort Worth with a sign promoting the 2007 LSR convention. Chris noted that promoting this activity, compared to only promoting NMRA membership, attracted more interest. A couple of people joined as Rail Pass members after visiting the booth. Duane Richardson suggested having hand-outs at train shows that would tell new hobbyists where they can go for help and advice – such as local hobby stores and the LSR.

Division 2 Director Jack Green noted that, even with the movement of people from south Louisiana, the division gained six members. This was helped by the 100-percent NMRA membership program of division clubs. Efforts are underway to encourage interest in layout operations and to improve those skills. One idea is to sponsor a "RailOp weekend" - inviting people in the RailOp special interest group.

Division 3 Director Duane Richardson – Division 3 get-togethers continued with clinics that feature the same structure being built both in wood and in styrene. There have been preliminary talks with the Garland library about repeating the two-day train show, with modular layout clubs, this fall.

Division 4 Director Bob Alston noted that working on this year's convention helped unite Division 4 members. Planning meetings brought the convention committee together in members' homes around the division and there were operating sessions at some of the meetings.

Division 6 Director Fred Bock reported that former NMRA national convention chair Peter Shavney has rejoined NMRA. Fred thanked LSR members for their good wishes and their support during Fred's health issues.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell said that membership has been steady. Work was done at train shows in the area and at mini-meets in the Ark-La-Tex clubhouse.

Division 8 Director Ray Byer - Most key positions for next year's convention have been filled. Division 8 is planning a mini-national-clinic event, with clinics by Houston area MMR's. The event will be for all Division 8 members and for others who join the NMRA at that time. Division 8 members have approved a new division constitution that is in line with NMRA guidelines.

OLD BUSINESS

Election Ballots With Marker Lamp – At the January, 2007, Board meeting, Gary Mills asked if LSR election ballots could be included in a ***Marker Lamp*** mailing to lower election expense. After speaking with our printer, Chuck Lind, and Gary Mills, Elbert Smith presented the following proposal. A four-page sheet, with the ballot, biographical information, and voting instructions, would be bound around the outside of the normal front and back covers of the appropriate ***Marker Lamp***. This outer sheet could be torn off the newsletter and not disturb the regular covers or contents. Printing the ballot with a light screen background would guard against extra copies being made. Each mailing label for that issue would include the member's Division number or "OR" (for out-of-region) to identify a member's division. Instructions would note that out-of-region members are ineligible to vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Ballots for 2007 Election

Motion made by Bill Dryden, seconded by Bob Alston and passed that the ballots from the 2007 LSR election be destroyed.

Budget Fiscal Year 2007/2008 – Elbert Smith reported the results of last year's budget and presented next year's proposed budget with estimated income of $4287.00 and expenses of $7371.37. Projected income from this year's convention is not included. A few items, such as income taxes, have been processed already.

Motion made by Jack Green, seconded by Chris Atkins and passed that the proposed budget be accepted.

Conventions – Bob Alston reported that there were 220 registrants at the 2007 convention and that the convention's total net income may be approximatily $4000.00. He emphasized that LSR convention planners must be wary of last-minute changes by the convention facility (room use, space available, set-up times, etc.). Changes imposed by the facility may used to gain concessions for other convention needs. Be careful. Get as tight a contract as you can. Loren Neufeld said that a contract had been signed for the room rates for the 2008 convention.

Future Cars & Decals – Loren Neufeld discussed various options for producing a commemorative car for the 2008 convention. One suggestion is to take orders before producing the car. This would reduce the chances of adding to our inventory of unsold cars,

Motion made by Ray Byer, seconded by Bill Dryden and passed that the decision on a 2008 commemorative car or decal be tabled until a specific proposal can be made to the Board.

Loren Neufeld requested that the 2008 convention commemorative item be in the honor of Ben Pearlman.

Motion made by Bill Dryden, seconded by Tracy Mitchell and passed that the 2008 convention commemorative item honors Ben Pearlman.

Life Fund Rollover and Elimination – Elbert Smith noted that some members have questioned the necessity for maintaining the LSR Life Membership Account. This account is described in LSR By Laws Article III, paragraph 5-b-3. The fund, or interest paid by the fund, helps cover LSR general operations. Any money withdrawn is based on the total number of LSR Life members and on the current one-year annual member fee. LSR no longer charges a member fee so members have questioned if the fund needs to be maintained as a separate account.

Motion made by Jim Packer, seconded by Jack Green and passed that the "Life Fund" (invested in Vanguard Money Market fund No. 30) be rolled over into the "CD Fund" account (also invested in Vanguard Money Market fund No. 30).

Motion made by Duane Richardson, seconded by Jim Packer and passed that paragraph 5-b-3 of Article III in the LSR By Laws shall be deleted.

Division Boundaries – Chuck Lind requested discussion about the Division boundaries of the LSR. He suggested that some members may be better served by belonging to a different division and that the LSR should survey members to investigate this issue. Some members live just across a division boundary and are physically closer to the activities of a different division. Extensive discussion followed.

Motion made by Jack Green, seconded by Don Kimmel to retain the boundaries as they are now constituted. The motion passed with three dissenting votes.

Scheduling of Board Meeting – Scheduling of the annual Board meeting was discussed. Having the meeting after the Sunday breakfast general meeting means that some Board members cannot return to their homes afterwards without spending a night in transit. Pros and cons were discussed.

Motion by Jim Packer, seconded by Fred Bock and passed that the annual Board meeting continue to be held immediately after the LSR breakfast meeting on the last day of the convention.

Purchase of Additional LCD Projectors – Because increasing numbers of clinic presenters require LCD projectors, and because rental charges for these projectors are very high, it was proposed that the LSR purchase additional LCD projectors. LSR currently owns one LCD projector. Requirements and options were discussed.

Motion by Chris Atkins and seconded by Bob Alston that the LSR purchase two additional LCD projectors. The motion passed with two dissenting votes.

Motion by Jim Packer, seconded by Ray Byer and passed that Jerry Schoenberg and Chuck Lind investigate the purchase of two additional LCD projectors and their accessories, and submit a proposal at the mid-year Board meeting.

Postal/E-mail Marker Lamp Distribution – A suggestion had been made to distribute ***The Marker Lamp*** by e-mail to some members to reduce the printing and postal costs. It was noted that the Board had considered e-mail distribution in the past and had decided against it. Chuck Lind pointed out that much of the publishing costs are setup costs and that the reduction in total cost may be relatively small. It was noted that if this change were made, then election ballots would have to be mailed to members with that associated copying and postal cost.

Motion by Jim Packer, seconded by Duane Richardson and passed that full postal delivery of ***The Marker Lamp*** shall continue.

Contest Award Plaques – Duane Richardson showed an example of a laser-engraved plaque that could be used for

contest award plaques. He estimated the engraving cost as $15.00 excluding material costs. Laser-engraved plaques would be prepared before the annual convention and would not carry the names of the winners or descriptions of their submissions. The consensus of the Board was to leave the decision about the style of plaques to the discretion of the Contest Chair.

Convention Fund – LSR By Laws require that at the annual Board meetings the Board determine the amount to be retained in the Convention Fund.

Motion by Jack Green, seconded by Ray Byer and passed, the Board recommends that the Convention Fund should remain at the current balance of $10,169.41.

After calling for any additional New Business, and hearing none, President Jerry Schoenberg adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Elbert Smith, Secretary/Treasurer

Filling out the Contest Paperwork

By Tracy & Terry Mitchell, MMR's

After reviewing many of the models in the Contest Room at Round Rock I felt that many of the models didn't receive the score they deserved. The one thing that stood out was they didn't tell the judges what they did. After the convention I asked Tracy and Terry to do an article on filling out the paperwork. Their regular column will return next issue.

First off, we need to point out these tips are not set in stone. These are how we do it both as a contestant, and what we like to see as a judge. Someone else might have a better way, and that is fine. These work for us. Evidently this is a good approach, because both of us have won some kind of an award at the local level and regional level (LSR and other regions). We also have won at National Contests (NMRA, NNG, O Scale National).

Before we get into what to write specifically for each of the five sections, we will give some general information that will apply to all sections.

1. Write "**See Attached Sheet**" on the contest score sheet under each section. Then on a separate sheet of paper, write what you did to build the model. This way you can do it ahead of time, preferably on a computer that will allow you to copy and paste. This part of entering the contest should not be a spur of the moment, this should be as well thought out as building the model. When writing your contest entry form, keep in mind the way the judging is split into categories, and write a section particular to each corresponding section, Construction, Detail, Conformity, Finish and Lettering, and Scratchbuilding.

2. Repeat, Repeat, Repeat! This is the one guideline that you need to use the most. If you only get one thing out of this article, this is it. Why? Because like we mentioned before, there are judges for each category. The construction judge usually will not read, what you wrote in conformity. That is not that judge's department. For example when you talk about a detail, of course, mention it in detail. Also describe how it was built or applied in the construction section, and finally, if it was scratchbuilt, state that it was scratchbuilt in that section also. Judges are told to only read the section that they are judging.

3. Learn what judges like to see. This took us a few contests to discover. and we are still discovering what phrases judges like to see. Once you learn these catch phrases, *use them.* A few of the catch phrases are Board by Board Construction, Stud Wall Construction, Fabricate, Alter, Distressed, Scratchbuilt, Weathered, Aged, Individual, Hand brushed, Modify, Back Date, Cut, Fill and Sand, Replaced, Hand Embossed, Drew my own plans, and Made my own jigs.

4. By the same token, learn what judges do not want to read. They do not want to see the word "Kit" or" Kitbash" in scratchbuilding. Nor do they want to see "made my own castings" unless you "made your masters". One without the other implies they made a casting from a commercial part. They also don't want to read "Used common building practices of the era modeled." The judges may not know what the prototype building practices were, what they want to know is what you did to build your model.

5. Dispense with the numbers. For example, don't mention the model has 1265 individual parts. Judges can usually tell how many parts you used without being told. For example if you enter a trestle with 10 bents and each bent has at least 92 Nut Bolt Washer's that is a bunch of NBW's. Judges can see that you added NBW's to every bent, and they know how tedious that job is. No need to dazzle them with a number. All that is required to say is… "bents have NBW's." State that in construction as well as in detail, if you painted the NBW's, say so in finish and lettering. If you used the proper NBW (2 ¼" malleable iron with an oval washer), say that in conformity. About the only time to state how many pieces were used would be to describe a small sub-assembly, like…43 parts on a diesel fuel tank.

6. Try to state the era modeled. The era modeled is one of your most defining points about a model. It is good to say the era modeled in conformity or any other category that needs clarification. What do we mean by clarification? For example you model the ATSF in 51. You enter a plain yellow depot, not heavily weathered and in good condition. If you did not state the era modeled, a judge could not give you a favorable score for having a depot in pristine condition. But since you stated the era was the 50's *AND* you also said the plain yellow scheme was introduced in the late 40's, one could assume the depot would be pretty new, with less weathering than one ten years old.

7. Use phrases or bullets whenever possible.

- Complete sentences are fine, but they can bog down judges.
- You want to make it simple to read.
- This speeds up the process.
- Judges have such little time on each model, that if they spend the time reading a "term paper", they will not be able to discuss the points to give. This is a model contest not an essay contest or a grammar test. 90% of the time the model will speak for itself with a write up pointing out the highlights. Be blunt and concise, but also go into depth when needed.

Enough of the generalities, time to get into specifics.

Construction: This is the category that has the most points (40) so really WOW the judges here with what you did on the model. Describe in detail everything you did. Everything you did on the model can be described in construction. The details you added, the items you scratchbuilt, what type of finish and how you lettered the model, weathering, and what you did to conform to the prototype, all can be stated in some fashion in construction.

Doing all the right things to build a model for a contest isn't enough to do well in a model contest. What this means is, you as the contest model builder must convey what you did to the judges. Judges are not stupid, but unless you tell them everything you did to build a model, they have no way of knowing what you did. Worse, they might assume how you did it, and not give you credit for doing something extra ordinary or highly unusual. Tell them what you did. A perfect example of this is someone wrote they added grab irons and handrails to an F7. Well the judges assumed it was a Walther's detail kit, not grab irons hand formed from wire. You can even talk about conformity to justify how you built the model like you did. You might say something like "the model was not built PLUMB. Boards not evenly spaced, or not cut square, etc were put there on purpose." Make sure you only use this on a model that would be believably out of plumb. (Leaning or falling down building, a Shed, or even an Outhouse) Do Not write this hoping to cover any mistakes. A "good" construction judge can see right through this.

If you can, take photos of the building process, and bring them along as supplemental material. This is especially true if you model an interior and have it where you can't see the interior. If you should happen to make it with a removable roof, please have something worthwhile to see below. Judges love to look at the inside of a roof hoping to see truss work. Not a flat sheet of nothing or a messy glue job with out of scale lumber. Also be advised the judges will look at all eight sides.... four sides, plus the top side and bottom side, and the inside, and outside. So be prepared to have the model turned upside down. Write how the model was weathered. Make sure, if the model is wood, tell how you distressed the wood too. If it was styrene made to look like wood, describe how you did that. If you used some unusual technique (such as a car cigarette lighter to make the end grain), tell about that.

On the contest form, check as many of the boxes that apply. The more materials used, the better. The most minuscule or insignificant thing might be the difference maker in the points. List every thing you can. Describe any difficult technique you used to construct the model. Also write down if you built your own jigs or drew your own plans.

Detail: In this section you need to only point out the details whether they be commercial, factory installed, or scratchbuilt. The Detail judges will not care "Who" or how it was made (That is in construction and scratchbuilt) All they are looking for is if you have detail. Always try to list all the details first, then at the bottom list the materials used. Try to group the details together, such as roof details, porch details, interior details, etc. It makes the judge's job easier to read the section on roof detail and then look at the roof on the model to see that you actually have what you listed.

Remember that weathering can and should be considered as a detail. We think a tarpaper roof heavily torn and frayed is a detail. So is peeling paint. Mineral stains on a water tank and steam domes are other details that are often not listed as a detail. Also remember lettering on rolling stock can be a detail as well. In summary add as much detail as you can on a model. Write down on the contest form every detail that is on the model. Remember commercial, scratchbuilt, or pre-fab details, all count the same in the Detail judge's eyes.

Conformity: Out of all the sections to be judged, this is the one that seems to be the hardest to write about. To quote from the NMRA judging guidelines "Conformity deals with achieving prototypical appearance or following prototype practice in construction and application of parts." That is a mouthful, but what it means is, does your model look like something that could be found in the real world? The NMRA sum it up this way… Is the Model Logical? If you can justify the logic of your model on paper, you should have no problem scoring well in this section.

Well what happens if you are a freelancer. If you follow a specific prototype and you have yours lettered for your own roadname that is okay, as long as in your conformity description, you say that is what you did. If your RR follows the prototype, RR&G and you entered a boxcar, you should have a photo or a plan of a RR&G boxcar. That will be okay if you state it in the description like this…"My fictitious railroad is based on the RR&G, but I lettered the model for my own private roadname. The Photo is of the prototype design, shown here to describe what I am trying to simulate". Make sure it is in BOLD FACE to alert the judges. The theme here is that you describe what you built, following a specific prototype, and then describe the ways you chose to deviate from the prototype. It wouldn't hurt to put a caption on the photo.

The biggest thing you can do to help your score is to provide documentation. They can be photographs or drawings. If you can draw your own plans, do so. They don't have to be works of art. Sketches will do, but a drafted plan would be better, CAD drawings are even better. The best thing to improve your score is to provide a photograph. For example, if you are modeling a church that is freelance. Use a photo from one church that has the steeple you used. From another, use the stained glass window you copied.

Finish and Lettering: Finish means the covering and coloring of the model. That includes the paint or stain on the model. Finish is one of the most important aspects of model building. The finish is what people see first on your model, so it must look right. The most finely constructed most detailed, and most prototypically accurate model, still will not be convincing without a proper finish. It is important that your write up reflect that as well. Spend as much time on the F&L write up as you do writing the construction section. This is another section where you check as many boxes as you can.

Finish doesn't always mean how it is painted. Finish can be smooth as well as rough. Some rough finishes are intended some are not. Does the model have any pits, large gaps and depressions in the joints? If you kitbashed your model you more than likely had to fill gaps. Describe how you filled and sanded any joints. Distress lumber and wood grain are considered part of the finish too. Tell what you did to get that aged look on the lumber. If the model has rust on it describe how you made that rust. If your model looks like polished metal, describe that technique.

Try to have some kind of lettering on the model as well even if it is just a chalk mark. And don't forget to write about how that lettering was made in construction if you made your own lettering. Also make sure you describe how you made signs, decals, or even how you applied those decals. Sometimes that is a tell tale to a judge on why the finish is the way it is.

Also describe any unusual techniques you use to finish the model. Such as using real rust, apply paint with a T shirt instead of a paint brush (to reduce the brush strokes) or how you make tarpaper look faded. And don't forget to cut and paste the important stuff in Construction.

Scratchbuilding: You don't have to describe how you handmade the item (that goes under construction), you only need to list the items you scratchbuilt. Sometimes it is real helpful if you describe a material not usually associated with model railroading that was used to make an item. Also, don't forget to mention the item in detail, and conformity. Does it sound like we are repeating ourselves, repeating ourselves?

NEVER, NEVER, start your Scratchbuilding section with the words, "I started with a kit". Even if you say, "I started the model with a kit, but threw out everything, and used the plans only." What you did was plant the seed in the judge's mind that this is a kit. Also don't just mention the interior was scratchbuilt and leave it at that. Describe everything that was scratchbuilt in the interior. Walls, floors, desk, file cabinets, coke machines etc. Individual boards is a good thing to say here.

Remember to state in the write up, if you drew your own plans, made jigs, or even made a special tool for this project. All of these will count toward points in scratchbuilding. State all of these under scratchbuilding as well as construction.

Judging scratchbuilding is the only category that isn't objective. Either the items are scratchbuilt or there aren't. Do not say the model was 100, 75 or even 50% scratchbuilt and leave it at that, describe everything that was home made. If you have a small shed that was 100% scratchbuilt, should it get more points than a two stall enginehouse that was 100% scratch? The shed might, after listing everything you scratchbuilt. It is much better to go ahead and list the parts and let the judges decide what the score is. Terry entered a small shed that was 100% scratch including the working scratch windows and doors, a complete stud wall interior down to the ceiling rafters. He never said it was 100% scratch he listed everything that was and let the judges decide. It beat a two stall engine house that the modeler wrote was 100% scratch and left it at that.

We hope these ideas we gave you will take some of the aggravation out of entering the contest. Filling out the paperwork for a contest is one of the hardest things you can do in Model Railroading. If you want to do well in the contest you must master this just like any other modeling skill. Building a great model is not good enough to win; you must provide documentation on what you did. Gil Freitag told us many years ago when we first got into building contest models as opposed to models that are what we call "good enough" he said, "When the contest is over and done…there are only two categories, Winners and Losers."

Hill Country Special Contest Results

By Chuck Lind, MMR Region Contest Chairman

Another LSR Convention is in the books. First I want to offer my thanks to all of those that helped in the contest room and did the judging on Friday night, without all the help the contest would not be possible. We had a great turnout in the contest room with a total of 120 entries.

This year's winners are:

Steam Locomotives
1. David Davis – G&D 0-6-0 #19
2. Harold Bryant – SP 0-6-0T Switcher

Diesel Locomotives
1. Bob Brindle – Trinity Industrial Belt, Hustler
2. Harold Bryant – SP EMD A&B Daylight
3. Kim Saign – GP U258B _____

Traction and Other
1. Kelly Russell – Trackmobile
2. Paul Richardson – RGS Goose #2

Passenger Cars
1. Charlie Kirk – Animas San Juan & Western #310

Freight Cars
1. Al Boos – AG&F Dry Ice SHPX 1506
2. Jerry Hoverson – Rocky Mountain Central Gon #48
3. Tom Browning – Z Scale Nuclear Flat Car

Maintenance of Way
1. Ken Ehlers – D&RGW Pile Driver #OB
2. Duane Richardson – Alamosa Trash Gon D&RGW MOW
3. Tom Browning – Z Scale Side Dump Car

Cabooses
1. Tom Browning – MKT #213
2. David Davis – MKT #342
3. Kim Saign – NP 24' Caboose #1289

Complete Trains
1. Rod Fredericks – Backwoods Work Train
2. Bob Brendle – West Cliff & Alton
3. Tom Browning – Z Scale Amtrak Train

Off-Line Structures
1. Tracy Mitchell – 2 Story Outhouse
2. Loren Neufeld – Riverbank Outhouse
3. Duane Richardson – Hall's Hobby House

On-Line Structures
1. Van Vanderwitt – UP 360 ton Coaling Tower
2. David Davis – Rock Bunker
3. Steve Sandifer – Climax Depot

Bridges & Trestles
1. Mike Barrett – HO Frame Bent Trestle

Displays
1. Ken Ehlers – Machine Shop
2. Loren Neufeld Outhouse & Tree
3. Rod Frederick – Shipyard & Marine Supply

Prototype B&W Print
1. Chris Atkins – Uncouple
2. Chris Atkins – Cumbres & Toltec #484
3. Chris Atkins – Backing Up

Prototype Color Prints
1. Chris Atkins – Chama at Sunrise #1
2. Bradley Linda – Death of a Depot
3. Bradley Linda - #844 at Rockdale

Prototype 35mm Slides
1. E. Lee DeGolyer III – LaLocomotora Verga
2. E. Lee DeGolyer III – Much Like Yesterday
3. E. Lee DeGolyer III – Steam & Station on Forbidden Island

Model B&W Print
1. Ken Ehlers – Double Head at Phantom Canyon
2. Bradley Linda – Southbound Near Dusk
3. Chris Atkins – Ironhead Timber Co Hustler

Model Color Prints
1. Ken Ehlers – RGS #20 & #42
2. Ken Ehlers – Gold Hope Mine
3. David Lamberts – Downtown Opportunity

Trains on Stamps
1. Robert Jackson – All Aboard
2. Tom Browning – Blocks of Beauty
3. Ben Harris – Welshpool & Llanfair

Passes
1. Chris Atkins – Washington Idaho & Montana Railway Co.
2. Robert Jackson – York Group's Mid-Atlantic RR

Arts & Crafts

Railroadiana
1. Dale Angemend – Counted Cross Stitch Train
2. Liz Harris – Evolution of Engines Crewel
3. Judy Bryant – Southern Pacific Sunset Logo

General
1. Barbara Smith – His Promised Quilt
2. Paula Packer – Victorian Santa
3. Tracy Mitchell – De'Coupage 3D Outhouse

Needlework
1. Judy Bryant – Counted Cross Stitch Flower Cart
2. Judy Bryant – Hummingbirds Towel Holder
3. Judy Bryant – Butterfly Crown Plate

Theme – Wildflowers
1. Fredda McPherson – Yellow Rose of Texas Serving Set
2. Judy Bryant – Pink Flowers – Zippered Case
3. Judy Bryant – Flowers in Vases

Most Popular Arts & Crafts
Barbara Smith – His Promised Quilt

Arts & Crafts Best of Show
Barbara Smith – His Promised Quilt

Special Outhouse Contest
1. Tracy Mitchell – 2 Story Outhouse
2. Loren Neufeld – Riverbank Outhouse
3. Loren Neufeld – Outhouse & Tree

Participation Award
Duane Richardson 4 entries totaling 380 points

Best Kit Built Model
Rod Fredricks – Shipyard & Marine Supply

Architecture Award
Daniel Ladd – Temple Depot

Tree Award
Loren Neufeld – Outhouse & Tree

Youth Award & Linda S. Little Award
Rayana Martinez – Small Shed

Bob Clarke Logging Award
Loren Neufield – Riverbank Outhouse

Most Popular Model
Ken Ehlers Machine Shop

Novice Best of Show
Rod Fredericks – Shipyard & Marine Supply

Best of Show
Ken Ehlers – D&RGW Pile Driver #OB

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

Here is the list of the upcoming railroad events of which I am aware within the LSR. I provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean for these events. Further information is available through the NMRA Scale Rails and various trade magazines. Please forward send any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via email at bdr149@airmail.net. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change.

The upcoming events:

LSR Convention:

Lone Star Region 56th Annual Convention

Round Rock, TX

Yes, this is a past event, and next time it will read "Houston" &"57th Annual", but for now and for all .....

WE HAD AN OUTSTANDING CONVENTION!!!!!!!!

Grandest of kudos to Bob Alston and all of the Convention Team! Now it is time to start planning for the 2008 Convention in Houston.

Recurring events and meetings:

DFW Area Lionel Modular Group Meeting Plano

The DFW Lionel Modular Group meets the second Monday of the month at 6:45 PM in the Gladys Harrington Library; 1501 East 18th St.; Plano, TX. For more information call (972) 422-4330.

LSR Northeast Texas, Division 3 Monthly Meeting Garland

Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX Third Saturday of each month. For more information contact Duane Richardson (duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com) or check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website

Houston Area Live Steamers

Hockley ,TX

Come enjoy free train rides on our 7,500 feet of 7½-inch gauge track. Public run days are the 3rd Saturday of the month March thru November. US Hwy 290 and Roberts Road; Times are 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We can always open special days for Model Railroaders. For more info go to www.hals.org or contact Peter Bryan at peterb@ppdq.net

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs Meeting Irving, TX

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month.Visit the NTC website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or its member clubs. All model railroaders welcome.

Events and Shows:

July 2007

28th **Model Train Show** Sat. 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM Admission Free Mall of the Mainland; 10000 E. F. Lowry Expressway, #001; Texas City Contact: (409) 986-7000 ext. 114

August

7th **National N Scale Convention** Hartford, CT
Contact: www.nscalecollector.com

7th **North Texas Chapter National Railway Historical Society Meeting** Tues. 7:30 PM Sokol Dallas Center; 7448 Greenville Ave.; Dallas

15th **Houston N Crowd Membership Meeting** Wed. 7:00 PM Papa Ben's Train Place; 2506 South Boulevard; Houston
Contact: www.houstonncrowd.org

18th **New Braunfels Summer Model Train Show**
Sat. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Adults $5; Children 17 and Under $1 New Braunfels Civic Center; 380 S. Seguin Street; New Braunfels Contact Brian Weidner, lonestarrailway@yahoo.com

25th **Train Collector's Association, Lone Star Division Meet** Sat. 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM Holiday Inn Select; 1655 N Central Expressway; Richardson Contact: Pat Halpin at (210) 661-4238

29th - Sept 1st **National Narrow Gauge Convention**
Portland, Maine Contact: www.27thnarrowgaugeconvention.net

September 2007

4th **North Texas Chapter National Railway Historical Society Meeting** Tues. 7:30 PM Founder's Building (by the Cotton Belt Depot); Grapevine

15th **Greenville Railroad Museum Open House** Sat. 10 AM to 5 PM Admission Free Greenville Railroad Museum; 3102 Lee St.; Greenville Contact: (903) 455-4935

15th-16th **25th Annual Temple Model Train Show**
Sat. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sun. 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Adults $5 (1$ discount for seniors and active duty military and dependents w/ ID); Children 12 and Under Free Frank Mayborn Convention Center; Temple Contact: Mike Cleveland (254) 587-3077

19th **Houston N Crowd Membership Meeting** Wed. 7:00 PM Papa Ben's Train Place; 2506 South Boulevard; Houston
Contact: www.houstonncrowd.org

October 2007

6th - 7th **19th Annual Fall Train Show** Sat. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Sun. 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM Adults $6; $9 Family Live Oak Civic Center; 8101 Pat Booker Road; Live Oak (San Antonio) Contact: Gene Turner (210) 355-2777 or the Alamo Model Railroad Engineers mreshow@satx.rr.com

13th – 15th **25th Annual LMRA Train Show** Sat. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sun. 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Adults $6, Children 10 and Under Free w/ Adult ticket Lockheed/Martin Recreational Area; 3400 Bryant Irvin Road; Ft. Worth Contact: www.lmra.org/activity.html

November 2007

3rd - 4th **Texas & Pacific Depot and Museum Train Show and Extravaganza** Sat. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sun. 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM Adults $5, Children 12 and Under Free Marshall Civic Center; US 59 2 miles north of IH 20, Marshall Contact: (903) 938-9495

3rd - 4th **The Great Train Expo** TBA Reliant Park; Houston

10th – 11th **Fort Worth Area Train Show** (North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs) Sat. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Adults $7, Children 12 and Under Free Amon Carter Hall/Will Rogers Memorial Center; 3401 W Lancaster Ave.; Ft. Worth, TX
Website: www.dfwtrainshows.com

10th – 11th **Model Train Festival** Sat. and Sun. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Texas City Museum and Showboat Pavilion; 400 Blk 6th St. North; Texas City Contact: (409) 643-5799

17th - 18th **3rd Annual North Louisiana Train Show** Sat. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Adults $7, Children 12 and Under Free Louisiana National Guard Armory; Stoner Avenue; Shreveport
Contact: www.northlouisianatrainshow.org

December 2007

8th - 9th **Greenville Holiday Train and Collectable Show** Sat. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sun. 12:00 AM to 5:00 PM Adults $4, Children 6-18 $2, Under 6 Free Greenville Railroad Museum; 3102 Lee St.; Greenville Contact: (903) 455-4935

January 2008

19th – 20th **Dallas Area Train Show** (North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs) Sat. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Adults $7, Children 12 and Under Free Plano Centre; 2000 East Spring Creek Pkwy.; Plano, TX Contact: www.dfwtrainshows.com

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Elbert Smith

LSR Accounts Audited

On May 23rd, the LSR accounts were reviewed by President Jerry Schoenberg and Membership Chair David Davis and were found to be correct.

Account Change

At the June meeting, the Board voted to close the Life Fund and to move that money into the CD Fund. The CD Fund is used for general LSR operating expenses. The Life Fund had been established to accept LSR Life Member dues and to cover the yearly membership charges for LSR Life Members. Because we no longer charge for LSR membership, the Board decided that it was not necessary to maintain a separate Life Fund. The LSR now has two Vanguard money market funds – The CD Fund and the Convention Fund.

LSR Financial Accounts:

For the period of April 1 through June 30, 2007:

Beginning Checking Account		$2,226.21
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total	$41,506.12	
Funds Held For Div. 1 (Not LSR Funds)		$1,528.70
Total LSR Net Worth – All Accounts	$42,203.63	
Income		
Ad, Dealer	20.00	
Ad, Pike	24.00	
Car & Decal Sales	534.50	
Patches	25.00	
Sam Brendle Scholarship	500.00	
Subscription	6.00	
Vanguard MM (CD Fund)	273.90	
Vanguard MM (Convention Fund)	130.77	
Vanguard MM (Life Fund)	129.07	
Subtotal	$1,643.24	
Disbursements		
Achievement	52.42	
Board Meetings	51.53	
Contest	343.77	
Decals	72.00	
Division 1 Expenses	25.25	
Election	612.87	
Historian	12.99	
Marker Lamp Print & Mail	1,067.14	
Sam Brendle Scholarship	500.00	
Taxes	146.37	
Subtotal	$2,884.34	
Transfer		
From CD Fund to checking acct.	$2000.00	
Ending Checking Account		**$2,985.11**
Vanguard Money Market Accounts Total		**$39,506.12**
Funds Held For Div. 1 (Not LSR Funds)		**$1,503.45**
Total LSR Net Worth – All Accounts		**$40,987.78**

Total NMRA/LSR Membership inside the LSR area is 1050.

New Members – Please take note of the following members new to the NMRA/LSR. When you run into them, say hello, and invite them to attend your Division's activities.

William Middleton, Arlington, TX
Terry Owens, Granbury, TX
Gerry Coryell, Denham Springs, LA
Robert Federle, New Iberia, LA
Charles Hunter, Baton Rouge, LA
Andy Martin, The Buffs, LA
Peter Oelschlaeger, Denham Springs, LA
Hank Robinson, Baton Rouge, LA
Karl Royder, Baton Rouge, LA
Walter Mazzei, Laredo, TX
Toni, Wilson, San Angelo, TX
Wayne Wilson, San Angelo, TX
Russell Kaufmann, Houston, TX
Richard Liliedahl, Kingwood, TX
Walter Saunders, Houston, TX
Richard Simmons, Kingwood, TX
Scott Yeager, Sugar Land, TX
John Bailey, Granbury, TX
Jess Searles, Baton Rouge, LA
Michael Tramonte, Prairieville, LA
William Hendley, Plano, TX
Jeff Palmer, Garland, TX
James High, Waco, TX
Brad Hyde, Harker Heights, TX
Donald Zimmerman, Austin, TX
Peggy Carrico, San Antonio, TX
James Carrico, San Antonio, TX
Larry Jacobsen, Wichita Falls, TX
Garrett Schmidt, Aledo, TX
Tim Schmidt, Aledo, TX
Jay Jone, Dallas, TX
Matthew Roberts, Leander, TX
Richard Disbrow, San Antonio, TX
Jordan Fischman, Tomball, TX
John Giraud, Magnolia,TX

FROM THE PAST (Summer 1982)

By Jim Long, MMR LSR Historian

At the San Antonio Convention, John Lowrance (San Antonio) received the John E. (Pop) Loeffler award, Chuck Ellis (Austin) received the Most Popular Model award for his Quincy #6, and Lloyd Keyser (Dallas) received the Best of Show award for his Concrete Coaling Tower.

At the Board of Directors Meeting following the 1982 LSR Convention in San Antonio, President Ed Quin appointed Vice President John Lowrance to serve as committee chairman to "study the re-apportionment of divisional lines including new divisions and additional board directors and prepare a motion by the Mid-year Board Meeting for a constitutional amendment to be sent to the membership if so approved by the Board". Bob Macdonald suggested we might start thinking about renaming the Region from "The Lone Star Region" in an effort to enhance more members from Louisiana and Mississippi. This action would require a petition to NMRA for a name change.

A letter to the Editor from unknown modelers in Houston congratulated Homer Fleisher on his appointment as Editor of the Marker Lamp and hoped that Homer's spelling had improved since his departure as the Editor of the DeRail (San Jacinto Model Railroad club publication). Homer replied: (Friends like this I don't need. Yes I was editor of the DeRail, but that spelling was not my fault. My secretary who did the typing just couldn't get the hang of things in railroading.)

LADIES ONLY!

Petticoat Junction

Looks like there will be plenty of hands-on Non-Rail Clinics at the convention in Houston next year. We have about eight excellent clinicians willing to present, but we may not have enough slots to use all of them because we will have several other events. Can't ever remember having this problem before. However, if this is the type of challenges Judith and I will have, we definitely can deal with them.

Also, don't forget to get started on your entry for the Arts and Crafts Contest. Remember, ALL types of crafts are eligible.

The categories will be Theme -The Houston Rodeo (any type of craft); Railroadiana (any type of craft with a Railroad theme; General (anything that doesn't fall into one of the above categories)

*Remember ALL Non-Rails this is **your** column and you are welcome to send in articles of interest to be put in this column. Suggestions: Receipes, events, etc.*

'til next time,
Virginia Freitag,
LSR Non-Rail Chair

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins

With all the rain, I hope you all have been inspired to stay inside and work on your layouts! Summer always seems to always deliver more distractions than the other seasons and at least for me, less time to work on the layout.

In May we met at the LMRA recreation facility for the Cowcatcher Division quarterly meeting. After a general meeting, Paul Dobbs presented an outstanding presentation on compound locomotives. Paul really puts on an excellent clinic and I appreciate him stepping up and offering. If you have a special interest you would like to share with the group, please let me know and I will set aside some time at the next meeting.

Of course in June, the convention in Round Rock was well represented by the Cowcatcher Division. The whole Austin area really came together to put on an excellent meeting. The train ride through the Hill Country was very enjoyable and the selection of clinics was outstanding. It was also an wonderful chance to see friends again from across the region. For those who didn't make it this year, start making plans for the 2008 convention in Houston.

Several Division 1 layout owners and clubs are preparing for the 2007 DFW Interchange this November. This will be an excellent time to show off the area layouts to our friends in Houston and Tulsa. New to the interchange this year is Shane Murphy's excellent Katy / T&P layout in Argyle. This puts three of the largest operating layouts on the Division 1 side of the Metroplex. However, you don't have to have a large layout to participate. Most of the layouts are smaller home layouts needing as few as one or two operators. I hope that we can get more Ft. Worth area layouts operating for the next DFW Interchange in 2010.

Right before the May meeting a bunch of folks from Division 1 got together for an operating trip to Tulsa. One of the topics discussed on the long drive home was hosting a operating weekend in Division 1. This might be an excellent opportunity to get more layouts in the area ready to operate before the next DFW Interchange. If you have a layout that you would like to get operational, please contact me at chris@railroadmodelers.com.

This year, I purchased two show shares for the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. As most of you know, this is the group that puts on the two large shows in the area. The Ft. Worth show is in November and the Plano show is in January. I have discussed this with Duane Richardson and we have agreed to split the return from the show shares as well as splitting the work. Speaking of work, we will need twice as many clinic presenters as before, so please let me know if you have a clinic tucked away that you would be willing to present at the Ft. Worth show.

One idea I had was that perhaps the division could get together and put together a small portable layout similar to the South Plains layout at the convention. This would be an excellent opportunity to attract people to the NMRA as well as introduce operations and provide a layout that show attendees can get their hands on. It would also take that place if the clinic obligations that we currently have. The downside would be that it would have to be continuously manned during show hours.

In May I announced the quarterly meeting without sending postcards. I had a good response to the cost saving measure and the turnout to the meeting was as good as ever. If you did not get an email announcement and would like to be added to the list or if you don't have email and would like a paper announcement, please call me at 214-222-1285.

The next meeting will be held in August. I am hoping to doing something a little different this time, so keep an eye on your Inbox.

Bayou Division 2

by Jack Green

They just seem to get better and better, the Conventions that is. Great job to Bob and his crew who warned us in 2006 that it was going to be a good one, and it was. The most important benefit that anyone could receive was seeing old friends and making new ones. The train ride on the "Flyer" was a nice touch and I learned that Texas has miles and miles of cedar trees that cover the landscape in the "Hill Country". Another new experience was seeing steel cross-ties. That in itself was worth the trip.

Youth Membership

Bob Schilling, the Division 2 youth director, presented Jared Aguillard with the certificate and "Golden Spike" guidelines for his selection as division 2 youth nominee. Jared attends Westdale Middle school in Baton Rouge and is an active member of the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders Club, which has a large multi-scale facility in Jackson, Louisiana. Jared also participates in the school band and takes Karate. Jamie Aguillard, Jared father, has an interest in HO scale and had worked at the Union Tank car facility in Baton Rouge. It appears that trains run in the blood of this father-son team. Jamie and Jared will be working toward the Golden Spike for them both. The youth program is blessed in Division 2 with a strong promoter in Bob Schilling.

Local News from the Crescent Club:

John Coiron, President of the CCMRC writes that the membership is excited about their move into DCC and continued area rebuilding.

He writes: On Saturday June 23rd the Crescent City Model Railroad Club hosted "Summer on Crescent Lines", an open house for the public. This time we tried something different by selling donation tickets for $5 each, good not only for a one person visit to view our operating layout, but also provided a

chance for the ticket holder to win a door prize of (2) $250 gift certificates to local Hobby shops. For the most part, both shops pretty much donated their gift certificates for our cause. The winning ticket was drawn at the end of the show, as it turned out a three year old boy won the door prize but for some reason both parents were happy (I guess mostly the dad). We also paid for two Friday illustrated newspaper ads with the idea being: for a one day show we better get the word out.

Within a year of Hurricane Katrina, our issuance rates have basically doubled and membership numbers has taken a beating. Because of this, our remaining members had to make up the difference with increased dues to help eliminate red ink from the bottom line. Since any successful show helps us out financially, this past attendance level gave our members a moral boost. Whether it was constantly making sure local shops had flyers on hand or having a larger ad that helped attendance is debatable. I like to think that the New Orleans area is just coming back, our active membership count has also risen.

The CCMRC started running heavy gauge track feeder bus segments under its layout, with donated wire. Since DCC money had to be diverted to pay for needed building insurance, members feel that doing prep work to the clubs building size layout is a step in the right direction, until we have the funds to make larger investments.

Midsouth Happenings.

Members Rod Fredericks, Dick Schneider and yours truly will attend the National Convention in beautiful downtown Detroit to learn everything there is to know about signaling and possibly visit a layout or two in our spare time.

North East Texas Division 3

by Duane Richardson, MMR

Summer's here and in the sweltering heat…well…summer IS here, but the heat, not so much. For those of us not under water right now it's been a fun year so far. You know you've had a lot of rain when the guy on the corner wants his Offline Structure AP judged and it's a 1 to 1 ark! But seriously, it's been a good year so far. The annual LSR Convention has come and gone and if you missed this year's you missed a LOT. There were 60+ clinics (some given by a dozen or so MMRs), layouts, tours, the train ride, the contest room and more. There was a bunch of different things to do. North Texans did well in the contest room with a few winners and a few that placed. If you haven't been to the LSR web page in a while, please go and take a look at the convention photo gallery. http://www.lonestarregion.com/convention/index.htm Our regional Photographer, David Lamberts, sent along almost 200 pictures and these are posted there. We are already looking forward to Houston.

Here in Division 3 it is business as usual. We are still holding our monthly meetings at the library. We had a lot of fun with the scratchbuilding structures clinics that we had last year and we are planning on holding something similar this summer. We have a couple of projects in the planning stages and will be looking for help from anybody who would like to get involved.

If you have a clinic subject that you would like to see or would be interested in sharing your knowledge, PLEASE let me know.

Lastly, we are still sending out at least 2 emails a month to all the Division 3 members that we have email address's for. If you haven't been getting one of these please email me at duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com or Tom Browning at tom@texaszrails.com so I can update not only our records but the LSR and NMRA's as well.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Bob Alson, Jr.

No Report Received
Could Bob be resting after a Great Convention

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts

The Lubbock Model Railroad Association (LMRA) is about to begin a new project in which the membership is quite excited. Tonight we met the director of the Lubbock Science Spectrum regarding a Christmas program to run from October 20, to November 17.

It will involve the club setting up its modular layouts in the exhibit hall of the Science Spectrum for that four-week period, but here is the neat part. We are going to put on a series of classes for children (ages seven to 12) that will teach youngsters about building a railroad module in T-Track. The classes will include basic bench work, laying track, basic scenery and structure work and then joining their modules together and actually letting them run the trains. There will be a fee for supplies, although the club will probably subsidize the expenses to some extent.

The club will build the corners, and the kids will build the "between" units. A prize will be awarded for the best module. Ideally, the classes will be held with the child and a parent both in attendance.

The LMRA already has a club pike in existence, but we are donating it to the Harvey House in Snyder, Texas to be set up as a permanent exhibit there.

Stay tuned to see how it all turns out. The Science Spectrums

plans on including this program with a series of other programs such as doll houses, miniatures, antique toys, etc. to create a craft version of "Santa Land" under the same roof in their exhibit hall.

The hope is to involve some children in the hobby, and if their parents get interested, so much the better.

For those of you that were at the convention and heard about Dave and his travels to be at both the convention and the birth of his grandson here is the news in an email he sent to Jerry.

On June 19th my lovely daughter gave birth to Scott Sinclair Stanton, a 6lb 2oz appropriately crying child. He is gorgeous!

Division 6

by Fred Bock, MMR

No Report Received

It was great to see Fred up and around at the Convention in Round Rock. Fred told me that after the convention he would be going in for additional surgery Lets all wish him well as he continues on his road to recovery

Division 7

by Don Kimmell

Greetings from 'high'-as in above the water level-Louisiana. Yes we have had a bit of rain, but not near as much as our dear friends in Texas. In fact, I think the only weekend it did not rain was the convention weekend!

If you missed it this year, it was a great one! I wonder how they keep be getting better each year. Fun!!! Bob and his troops did a great job and great fun was had by all, even thought there was not a "bar" on the property!!! We made do.!! Fun train ride, great clinics and a wonderful speaker. Sorry if you were not there. Try next year in Houston, Loren and his crew are already hard at work.

First off, let us talk about upcoming shows in this neck of the woods. First weekend in November-3rd & 4th- will be Marshall—this is a benefit for the T&P Station, so it is worth it. It will not be a Huge show, but a fun one!!

Then two weeks later the Northwest Louisiana Train Show. November 17th &18th at the National Guard Armory here in Shreveport. This is another benefit type show-money raised will got to help some of our disadvantaged kids. This will be the third year for this one, and it should be fun!

If you missed the spring Tyler show, it was another fun one, great crowd, good layouts and some wonderful vendors—I found a couple of good buys!

I am cutting this one short, have had to "pay to play" , so everyone take care. PLAY TRAINS!!!

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Ray Byer

Man was that a great convention in Round Rock this year or what? They did a great job and my hat is off to them. Well as you know next year it will be Houston's turn. From our presentation at the banquet dinner in Round Rock you know we have a lot of things are planed. Stay tuned for more information.

We have a lot of things happening in the Division for the next few months, starting in July. We have "Modeling with the Division 8 MMR's" and again in September. The first show will be performed by two first class modelers in the Houston Area, Loren Neufeld and Tracy Mitchell. This show will take place on July 28, 2007 at 10:00am at Papa Bens Trains Place. The other one will be held in September and will be at same place. The date has not been set as of now.

In August we have set up an operating-session for those who would like to learn more on running trains like the real railroads do. It is open to all who love to run trains. If you like to take part in this please contact Peter Bryan, he will sign you up today.

In October we have the annual Division 8 BBQ held at Zube Park and hosted by the HALS Live Steamers. This is always a fun event. Where else can you have great food, fellowship of other Model Railroaders and ride trains all at the same time.

To all Division 8 members as you know, we have been saying that the Waybill would be going to an E-mail base. So with that said please send in your e-mail address or $6.00 so you can be informed of up coming events in the future. We also have a new website set up for the division. The URL is http://www.kingswayrc.com/division8/

That is it for now, thanks

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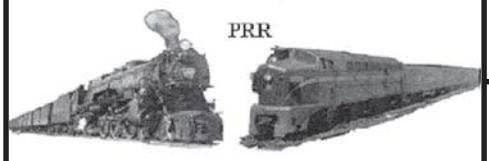
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